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Interim Directory of Legislative Committees and Activities

Includes Other Committees
on Which Legislators Serve

2003-2004

Prepared by
Montana Legislative Services Division
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PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

**PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH
LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT**

OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE

INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

Legislative Council and Legislative Services Division

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/administration/2003_2004/leg_council/default.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, MCA

The Legislative Council is a 12-member bipartisan committee composed of six members of the Senate and six members of the House of Representatives, including the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leaders from each house.¹

The Legislative Council generally oversees the activities of the Legislative Services Division (LSD). Other statutory duties include:

- adopting rules governing personnel management for the Legislative Branch, including rules for employee classification and pay with the concurrence of the Legislative Audit and Legislative Finance Committees;
- appointing the Executive Director of the LSD;
- providing general supervision of and policy direction to the Code Commissioner;
- selecting studies to be conducted during the interim and assigning the studies to the appropriate interim committees;
- establishing time schedules and deadlines for interim committees, including dates for requesting legislation and completing interim work;
- assisting the LSD in providing oversight of the state governmental broadcasting service;
- serving as the appropriate legislative committee for consultation with the Board of Land Commissioners regarding the disposal, sale, or exchange of certain state lands;
- serving as a long-range building committee to recommend to the Legislature and the Montana Department of Administration construction and remodeling priorities for the State Capitol;

¹A member serving based on the member's leadership position who is in the last biennium of service because of term limits may appoint a legislator who is not term-limited to serve in his or her place.

- appointing legislators to serve as members of interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities, based on recommendations made by legislative leadership; and
- approving the biennial Legislative Branch information technology plan.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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Assigned Studies

SJR 32 Study the costs and availability of liability insurance for health care facilities and health care providers associated with health care facilities and report the findings of the study to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Lois Menzies, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division

Greg Petesch, Director of Legal Services Office, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

SJR 32 Staff

Dave Bohyer, Director of Office of Research and Policy Analysis, Legislative Services Division

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The Legislative Services Division (LSD) is an independent, nonpartisan, impartial agency of the Legislative Branch, performing those duties and functions assigned by law or as directed or requested by legislators or legislative committees.

The LSD is divided into five offices: the Central Services Office, the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, the Legal Services Office, the Office of Legislative Information Technology, and the Legislative Environmental Policy Office.

The **Central Services Office** staff is responsible for general LSD administration, purchasing, publication distribution, payroll and personnel matters, final preparation of LSD documents (including engrossing and enrolling of bills and preparation of introduced bills), legislative printing and distribution, and legislator information and telecommunications.

Central Services Office

Lois Menzies, Executive Director

Karen Berger, Financial Services Manager

Lenore Adams, Purchasing & Inventory Coordinator

Debbie Bunker, Payroll, Benefits, & Personnel Specialist

Jennifer Murray, Accounting Technician

Kevin Hayes, Publications Coördinator/Session Information Officer

Ann Patten, Documents Services Manager

Kip Davis, Proofreader/Legislative Documents Technician

The **Office of Research and Policy Analysis** and the **Legal Services Office** conduct general and specialized research. Staff from both offices provide professional support to session and interim committees, draft legislation, prepare research reports, and provide information on the Legislature to the public.

The Office of Research and Policy Analysis has primary responsibility for staffing interim committees, providing reference services, and staffing a library that provides access to items of special interest to legislators and Legislative Branch staff. The Legal Services Office is responsible for compiling, updating, editing, and indexing the Montana Code Annotated and preparing the annotations under the supervision of the Code Commissioner, who is also the Director of Legal Services. The Legal Services Office is also required to review all proposed initiatives for compliance with bill drafting standards.

Office of Research and Policy Analysis
Dave Bohyer, Director
Connie Erickson, Research Analyst
Susan Fox, Research Analyst
Sheri Heffelfinger, Research Analyst
Leanne Kurtz, Research Analyst
Jeff Martin, Research Analyst
Pat Murdo, Research Analyst
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Angie Murray, Library Technician
Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary
Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary
Marsha Sager, Information Officer
Karen Kueffler, Administrative
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Legislative Printing and
Distribution

Legal Services Office
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Commissioner
Bart Campbell, Attorney
Lee Heiman, Attorney
Valencia Lane, Attorney
John MacMaster, Attorney
Eddy McClure, Attorney
David Niss, Attorney
Doug Sternberg, Legal Researcher
Carol Ann Jacobsen, Chief Editor
Sally Bush, Senior Editor
Connie Dixon, Editor
Nadine Fox, Indexer

The **Office of Legislative Information Technology** includes computer network and personal computer support personnel, systems analysts, and programmer/analysts who develop and maintain the programs and applications used by the Legislative Branch, including an online bill status system and the branch website.

Office of Legislative Information Technology
Hank Trenk, Director

Applications Development
Steve Eller, Applications Development Supervisor
Jim Gordon, Systems Analyst
Alysa Eaton, Programmer/Analyst
Mark Javornik, Programmer/Analyst
Marjorie Peterson, Programmer/Analyst

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Rick Peaslee, Network Administrator
Dustin Temple, Network Administrator
Jeff Thomas, Network Administrator
Steve Larsen, Network Support Specialist

The Legislative Environmental Policy Office provides staff services to the Environmental Quality Council and is described in detail under that committee.

LSD staff may be contacted by e-mail. In *most* cases, state employee e-mail addresses are composed of the first letter of the staff person's first name (in some cases, the first and second letter of the first name) followed by the last name, then "@state.mt.us". Examples are:

dbohyer@state.mt.us, or
lheiman@state.mt.us.

Legislative Audit Committee and Legislative Audit Division

<http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/audit/committe.asp>

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 13, MCA

The Legislative Audit Committee is a bicameral and bipartisan constitutional committee of the Montana Legislature. It consists of six members of the Senate and six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Committee on Committees and the Speaker of the House, respectively. The Audit Committee appoints, consults with, and advises the Legislative Auditor. The Audit Committee reviews the audit reports submitted by the Legislative Auditor, releases the audit reports to the public, and serves as the conduit between the Legislative Auditor and the Legislature.

The Audit Committee meets about six times during the interim to review staff audit reports and fraud hotline results, review personnel and administrative procedures in the Legislative Audit Division (LAD), and generally oversee the Division's activities.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

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The Audit Committee appoints the Legislative Auditor, who heads the Legislative Audit Division (LAD). LAD staff monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies and audit agencies' financial affairs. The LAD also conducts information system audits to determine the effectiveness of the state's computer resources.

Specifically, an audit of a state agency is conducted to determine whether the agency is efficiently carrying out the activities and programs authorized by the Legislature, whether the agency is properly managing expenditures, using funds only to further authorized activities and in accordance with the requirements of applicable laws and regulations, whether the agency is properly accounting for all revenues, receipts, and expenditures arising from its activities, whether the agency is adequately safeguarding and controlling its assets and using them efficiently, and whether the agency is accurately reporting and fully disclosing its financial status and the scope of its activities and operations to the Governor, the Legislature, and central control agencies.

Section 5-13-311, MCA, provides for a toll-free hotline to the LAD that Montana residents may use in reporting fraud, waste, and abuse in state government. The LAD is responsible for maintaining the hotline, reviewing all calls received, keeping a record of each call, analyzing and verifying the information relayed in the call, and potentially conducting additional work to document the activity. The Legislative Auditor is required to periodically update the Committee on the use of the hotline, results of the reviews, verifications, referrals, and any corrective action taken by the appropriate agency. The hotline number is 1-800-222-4446 outside Helena and 444-4446 from a Helena location.

Administrative Staff

Scott Seacat, Legislative Auditor
John Northey, Legal Counsel
C.D. Avery, Audit Development Manager
Jan Orsello, Administrative Support Manager
Kathy Covert, Word Processing Technician
Bev Holnbeck, Word Processing Technician
Katie Bowlds, Receptionist/Administrative Aide

Financial Compliance Audit Staff

Jim Gillett, Deputy Legislative Auditor
Pearl Allen, Audit Manager
Jeane Carstensen-Garrett, Audit Manager
John Fine, Audit Manager
Geri Hoffman, Audit Manager
Jim Manning, Audit Manager
Vickie Rauser, Audit Manager
Laurie Barrett, Senior Auditor
Chris Darragh, Senior Auditor

Laurie Evans, Senior Auditor
Cindy Jorgenson, Senior Auditor
Emy Neuman-Javornik, Senior Auditor
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Danielle Gamradt, Auditor
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Brenda Kedish, Auditor
Hollie Koehler, Auditor
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Amber Long, Auditor
Laura Norris, Auditor
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Tom Cooper, Senior Auditor
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Ida L. Sajor, Senior Auditor
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Jessica Solem, Auditor
Victor Valgenti, Auditor

Legislative Finance Committee and Legislative Fiscal Division

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/fiscal/2005_biennium/2005_lfc.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 12, MCA

The Legislative Finance Committee consists of four members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee appointed by that committee's chair, two members of the Senate appointed at large by the Committee on Committees, four members of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee appointed by that committee's chair, and two members of the House appointed at large by the Speaker.

The Finance Committee appoints a Legislative Fiscal Analyst whose duties are to head the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD), provide information regarding state government financial matters, assist in estimating revenue from state taxes, fees, and other sources, analyze the executive budget, assist the Revenue and Transportation Committee in performing its revenue-estimating duties, and generally assist the Legislature in all matters of compiling and analyzing financial information.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Sen. Joe Tropila (D)
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Sen. Tom Zook (R)
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LFD staff provide research and fiscal analysis support to interim committees that address state agency funding or budgeting.

Revenue and Taxation Policy

Terry Johnson, Principal Fiscal Analyst
Roger Lloyd, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Jim Standaert, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Cathy Duncan, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Mike Allen, Information Specialist

Expenditure Policy

Taryn Purdy, Principal Fiscal Analyst
Pam Joehler, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Lois Steinbeck, Senior Fiscal Analyst II
Greg DeWitt, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Pat Gervais, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Gary Hamel, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Todd Younkin, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Associate Fiscal Analyst
Associate Fiscal Analyst

Jon Moe, Fiscal Specialist

Cindy Amundson, Administrative Support Manager
Diane McDuffie, Legislative Secretary

PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

**PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH
LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT**

OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE

INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/child_fam/default.asp

Section 5-5-225, MCA; provides:

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services (CFHHS) Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the entities attached to that department for administrative purposes.

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Human Services
House Appropriations
Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety
Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

House Members

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Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
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Assigned Studies

HJR 3 Examine child abuse and neglect proceedings in order to determine how to provide representation for indigent families and to determine the earliest opportunity for prevention and intervention.

SJR 11 Study the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and of prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

Staff

Susan Fox, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Greg Petesch, Director of Legal Services Office, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Economic Affairs

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/econ_affairs/default.asp

Section 5-5-223, MCA; provides:

The Economic Affairs Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes:

- Montana Department of Agriculture
- Montana Department of Commerce
- Montana Department of Labor and Industry
- Montana Department of Livestock
- Montana Office of the State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner
- Montana Governor's Office of Economic Development

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

- House Business and Labor
- House Agriculture
- House Appropriations
- House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications
- Senate Business and Labor
- Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation
- Senate Finance and Claims
- Senate Energy and Telecommunications

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

SJR 17 Study methods of simplifying laws related to workers' compensation and occupational diseases.

Staff

Pat Murdo, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Bart Campbell, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Eddy McClure, Attorney for SJR 17 Study, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Education and Local Government

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/edu_local_gov/default.asp

Section 5-5-224, MCA; provides:

The Education and Local Government Interim Committee acts a liaison with local governments and has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes:

State Board of Education
Board of Public Education
Board of Regents of Higher Education
Office of Public Instruction

The statute also states that the Committee shall:

- provide information to the Board of Regents in the following areas:
 - annual budget allocations;
 - annual goal statement development;
 - long-range planning;
 - outcome assessment programs; and
 - any other area that the Committee considers to have significant educational or fiscal policy impact;
- periodically review the success or failure of the University System in meeting its annual goals and long-range plans;
- periodically review the results of outcome assessment programs;
- develop mechanisms to ensure strict accountability of the revenue and expenditures of the University System;
- study and report to the Legislature on the advisability of adjustments to the mechanisms used to determine funding for the University System, including criteria for determining appropriate levels of funding;
- act as a liaison between both the Legislative and Executive Branches and the Board of Regents;
- encourage cooperation between the Legislative and Executive Branches and the Board of Regents;
- promote and strengthen local government through recognition of the principle that strong communities, with effective, democratic governmental institutions, are one of the best assurances of a strong Montana;
- bring together representatives of state and local government for consideration of common problems;
- provide a forum for discussing state oversight of local functions, realistic local autonomy, and intergovernmental cooperation;

- identify and promote the most desirable allocation of state and local government functions, responsibilities, and revenue;
- promote concise, consistent, and uniform regulation for local government;
- coordinate and simplify laws, rules, and administrative practices in order to achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal and administrative relationships between and among state and local governments;
- review state mandates to local governments that are subject to 1-2-112 and 1-2-114 through 1-2-116;
- make recommendations to the Legislature, Executive Branch agencies, and local governing bodies concerning:
 - changes in statutes, rules, ordinances, and resolutions that will provide concise, consistent, and uniform guidance and regulations for local government;
 - changes in tax laws that will achieve more orderly and less competitive fiscal relationships between levels of government;
 - methods of coordinating and simplifying competitive practices to achieve more orderly administrative relationships among levels of government; and
 - training programs and technical assistance for local government officers and employees that will promote effectiveness and efficiency in local government; and
- conduct interim studies as assigned.

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Education
House Local Government
House Appropriations
Senate Education and Cultural Resources
Senate Local Government
Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

HJR 37 Review the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and recommendations for legislation to revise the act so that it is clear, concise, logically organized, and in conformance with the Bill Drafting Manual and report the final results of the study to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Connie Erickson, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Eddy McClure, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Energy and Telecommunications

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/energy_telecom/default.asp

Section 5-5-230, MCA, provides:

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Public Service Regulation and the entities attached to the department for administrative purposes.

Other Statutory Responsibilities:

Section 69-8-402, MCA, requires public utilities and cooperative utilities to submit annual summary reports of Universal System Benefits Programs to the committee.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

SJR 13 Investigate options for improving energy efficiency building codes laws and other energy efficiency and conservation practices and report the final results of the study to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Mary Vandenbosch, Resource Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Todd Everts, Legislative Environmental Analyst/Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Sattler, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Environmental Quality Council and Legislative Environmental Policy Office

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/lepo/2003_2004/default.asp

*Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 16, MCA
Title 75, chapter 1, part 3, MCA*

The Environmental Quality Council (EQC) is a 17-member committee created by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). In general, the EQC reviews and appraises state programs and activities related to the environment to ensure compliance with MEPA (Title 75, chapter 1, parts 1 through 3, MCA). Other EQC statutory responsibilities include:

- administrative rule review, draft legislation review, and program evaluation and monitoring of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes;
- implementation of MEPA and oversight of state agency compliance with MEPA;
- maintenance of accurate environmental indicator data;
- water policy oversight;
- monitoring and reviewing state agency environmental and natural resource enforcement policies, recordkeeping, and prevention programs; and
- energy development and conservation monitoring.

Membership

The EQC consists of six senators, six representatives, four members of the public, and one nonvoting representative of the Governor. The House members are selected by the Speaker of the House and the Senate members are selected by the Committee on Committees. Two public members are selected by the President of the Senate with the concurrence of the Senate Minority Leader and two public members are selected by the Speaker of the House with the concurrence of the House Minority Leader. At least 50% of the Council's legislative members must be selected from the session standing committees that consider issues within the jurisdiction of the EQC.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

HJR 4 Investigate options for improving the supply and distribution of water in Montana and evaluate the water storage policy established in 85-1-703, MCA, and require that the final results of the study be reported to the 59th Legislature and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

HJR 35 Study Montana's share of water from the interstate tributaries pursuant to the Yellowstone River Compact.

HJR 40 Study issues associated with water rights for private ponds for fish, wildlife, recreational, wetland, aesthetic, and gravel mining uses; and report the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the study to the 59th Legislature and the Governor.

HJR 43 Study the surface water and ground water impacts of the abandoned Zortman and Landusky Mine sites on the Milk and Missouri River Watersheds and the effectiveness of the state reclamation efforts at the Zortman and Landusky Mine sites in protecting the watersheds and report the results to the 59th Legislature.

Council Staff (Legislative Environmental Policy Office)

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The EQC appoints a Legislative Environmental Analyst, subject to approval by the Legislative Council, who heads the Legislative Environmental Policy Office (LEPO). LEPO is under the general administration of the Legislative Services Division and provides staff support to the EQC.

The LEPO staff provides impartial, nonpolitical environmental and natural resource information to the EQC, the Legislature, and the public. Staff duties include researching and writing reports, organizing public meetings and hearings, drafting legislation, and conducting studies assigned by the Legislature. The LEPO staff also serve as committee staff to several standing committees during legislative sessions.

Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Krista Lee Evans, Resource Policy Analyst

Larry Mitchell, Resource Policy Analyst

Mary Vandenbosch, Resource Policy Analyst

Maureen Theisen, Research and Publications

Law and Justice

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/law_justice/default.asp

Section 5-5-226, MCA, provides:

The Law and Justice Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Corrections and the Montana Department of Justice and the entities attached to those departments for administrative purposes. The Committee also acts as a liaison with the Judiciary.

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Judiciary
House Appropriations
Senate Judiciary
Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

SJR 31 Study juvenile probation and determine whether any changes in its administration are appropriate.

Staff

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Legislative Consumer Committee and Consumer Counsel

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/administration/consumer_counsel/default.asp

Constitutional and Statutory Citation:

Article XIII, section 2, Montana Constitution; Title 5, chapter 15, MCA

The Consumer Counsel represents Montana public utility and transportation consumers before the Montana Public Service Commission, state and federal courts, and administrative agencies in matters concerning public utility regulation. The Consumer Counsel, a position required by the Montana Constitution, is appointed by the Legislative Consumer Committee.

The Committee is required to meet at least quarterly and generally convenes eight to ten times per year. Meetings involve reports on Consumer Counsel staff activities, review and status updates of current cases, and review of contracts with expert witnesses. Two senators and two representatives, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees and the Speaker of the House, respectively, serve on the Committee.

Restructuring of the electric and natural gas utility industries is an issue of particular interest to the Committee, especially as utility rates are affected, and members will be monitoring the progress of the deregulation.

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Mary Wright, Attorney
Mandi Shulund, Secretary

Revenue and Transportation

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/rev_trans/default.asp

Section 5-5-227, MCA, provides:

The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the Montana Department of Revenue and the Montana Department of Transportation and the entities attached to those departments for administrative purposes.

The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee must have prepared by December 1 for introduction during each regular session of the Legislature in which a revenue bill is under consideration an estimate of the amount of revenue projected to be available for legislative appropriation.

Other sections outlining duties of the Revenue and Transportation Committee

5-12-302, MCA

15-1-230, MCA

15-6-218, MCA

15-30-1114, MCA

15-31-322, MCA

15-70-234, MCA

17-7-140, MCA

60-2-135, MCA

61-10-141, MCA

69-3-1409, MCA

Section 1, Chapter 328, Laws of 2003

Section 13, Chapter 612, Laws of 2003 (p. A-9, House Bill No. 2)

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House Taxation

House Transportation

House Appropriations

Senate Taxation

Senate Highways and Transportation

Senate Finance and Claims

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Assigned Studies

SJR 29 Study the taxation of centrally assessed properties, with a focus on utilities and utility properties.

Staff

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Lee Heiman, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Cindy Amundson, Administrative Support Manager, Legislative Fiscal Division

State Administration and Veterans' Affairs

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/st_admin_vet_affairs/default.asp

Section 5-5-228, MCA, provides:

The State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee has administrative rule review, draft legislation review, program evaluation, and monitoring responsibilities for the public employee retirement plans and the following Executive Branch agencies and the entities attached to those agencies for administrative purposes:

Montana Department of Administration

Montana Department of Military Affairs

Montana Office of the Secretary of State

Membership

Joint Rule 30-70

Not less than half of the members must have served on the following session standing committees:

House State Administration

House Appropriations

Senate State Administration

Senate Finance and Claims

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

None.

Staff

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State-Tribal Relations

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/st_trib_rel/default.asp

Section 5-5-229, MCA, provides:

The mandate of the State-Tribal Relations Committee is to act as a liaison with tribal governments, encourage state-tribal and local government-tribal cooperation, conduct interim studies, and report its activities, findings, recommendations, and proposals for legislation to the upcoming Legislature.

Membership

The eight-member Committee is chosen by the Speaker of the House (four members) and the Senate Committee on Committees (four members).

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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Assigned Studies

HJR 8 Study the dropout rates, graduation rates, and at-risk factors among American Indian students in Montana's public schools, develop a strategic state plan to reduce the dropout rate among all students, and report the findings of the study and recommendations to the 59th Legislature.

Staff

Connie Erickson, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Eddy McClure, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

**PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH
LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT**

OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE

INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

Districting and Apportionment

[http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/dist_apport/
FEBfinal.asp](http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/dist_apport/FEBfinal.asp)

Constitutional and Statutory Citation:

Article V, section 14, Montana Constitution; Title 5, chapter 1, part 1, MCA

The Montana Constitution and the Montana Code Annotated provide that a Districting and Apportionment Commission must be appointed in the legislative session preceding each federal population census. The Constitution directs the Commission to "prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts".

The Commission had specific deadlines for filing final plans for congressional and legislative districts once 2000 census figures were released. The Commission filed the congressional plan that went into effect for the 2002 general election and presented the legislative redistricting plan to the 2003 Legislature for its recommendations.

On February 5, 2003, the Commission adopted a final redistricting plan. Commissioners Sheila Rice and Joe Lamson submitted the plan to the Secretary of State as provided in the Montana Constitution. Secretary of State Bob Brown refused to accept the plan based on House Bill No. 309, which had been signed into law by Governor Martz on February 4, 2003. House Bill No. 309 required a plus or minus 1% deviation, and the plan had been drawn using a criterion of plus or minus 5% deviation.

Secretary of State Brown filed a complaint for declaratory judgment on February 5, 2003, requesting "the court to determine the constitutionality and statutory validity of the Statewide Redistricting Plan adopted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission". As of the date of this publication, the status of the litigation was unresolved. Upon resolution of pending litigation, it is hoped that a legislative plan will be in effect for filing and elections in 2004 for the 2005 Legislature. The Constitution provides that the Commission is dissolved upon the filing of the legislative redistricting plan, so the Commission's status is also pending.

For more information, see the Commission website for updates or contact Susan Byorth Fox at the Legislative Services Division.

Staff

Susan Byorth Fox, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

John MacMaster, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Dawn Field, Legislative Secretary, Legislative Services Division

Legislative Branch Computer System Planning Council

http://www.leg.state.mt.us/css/committees/interim/2003_2004/com_sys_plan/default.asp

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 4, MCA

Legislative participation in the Computer System Planning Council is not required by statute, but the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate may, at their discretion, assign legislators to serve.

The Council is responsible for reviewing and maintaining the Legislative Branch computer system plan, investigating new applications, designing methods for automation, developing system standards and identifying the needs of the Branch's computer system, and coordinating new applications with the statutory goals of the Legislative Branch.

The Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division serves as the Presiding Officer of the Council.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

**PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH
LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT**

OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE

INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

Capitol Complex Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Section 2-17-803, et seq., MCA

The Capitol Complex Advisory Council is a 9-member committee created to review proposals for long-term placement of displays or the naming of state buildings, spaces, or rooms in the Capitol complex, to advise the Legislature on the long-term placement of statues, busts, memorials, monuments, or art displays within the Capitol complex, to advise the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) on interior decoration of the Capitol, and to advise the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (DFWP) on grounds maintenance and grounds displays.

By November 15 of each even-numbered year, the Council must report to the Legislature on requests that it has reviewed for naming buildings, spaces, or rooms and for long-term placement of items in the Capitol or on the Capitol complex grounds.

Membership

The Council consists of nine members, including two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, two members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees, a public representative appointed by the Governor, and the director or the director's designee of each of the following agencies--the Montana Historical Society, the Montana Arts Council, the DOA, and the DFWP.

The DOA and DFWP provide staff services to the Council.

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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Advisory Committee

Statutory Citation: Section 75-6-231, MCA

As provided in 75-6-203, MCA, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program is a "program under which the state may provide financial assistance to community water systems and nonprofit noncommunity water systems". The program is co-administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which manages the technical components of the program, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), which implements the loan program and issues the bonds that are used for the state match to the federal grant.

The revolving fund is a separate account in the state treasury from which loans can be made, debt obligations and insurance can be purchased, and other assistance can be provided to improve water systems.

Each year, the DEQ must prepare an intended use plan for the fund, which must include descriptions of the projects that program funds will assist and the amount and type of funds to be allocated. This plan is subject to public comment and review by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Advisory Committee.

Membership

The committee has six members. Two members are appointed from the Legislature. One member must be from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives, and they may not represent the same political party. Other entities that must be represented include the Montana League of Cities and Towns, the Montana Association of Counties, the DNRC, and the DEQ.

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Economic Development Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-1820, MCA.

The Economic Development Advisory Council provides direction and oversight to the Governor and the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC). Specifically, the Council:

- advises the DOC concerning the distribution of funds to certified regional development corporations for business development purposes;
- advises the DOC regarding the creation, operation, and maintenance of the Microbusiness Finance Program and the policies and operations affecting the certified microbusiness development corporations;
- advises the Governor and the DOC on significant matters concerning economic development in Montana;
- prescribes allowable administrative expenses for which economic development funds may be used by certified regional development corporations; and
- encourages certified regional development corporations to promote economic development on Indian reservations in their regions.

Membership

The Council is composed of up to 19 members. Fifteen of the members are appointed by the Governor and include the Director of the DOC, the Governor's Chief Business Development Officer who serves as Presiding Officer of the Council, one member from a Montana tribal government who represents a tribal economic development organization, and up to 12 public members representing each geographic region covered by each of the regional development corporations certified by the DOC. In addition, two representatives, including one from each party, are appointed by the Speaker of the House and two senators, including one from each party, are appointed by the Committee on Committees.

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Electronic Government Advisory Council

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/itsd/policy/councils/egov/egov.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-17-1105, MCA.

The charge of the Electronic Government Advisory Council is to advise the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) on the creation, management, and administration of electronic government services and information on the Internet.

Membership

The Council consists of the following members:

- the Director of the DOA, who serves as Presiding Officer;
- the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee;
- the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
- the Director of the Department of Commerce or the Director's designee;
- the Director of the Department of Revenue or the Director's designee;
- the State Librarian or the State Librarian's designee;
- a member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- a member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- an elected local government official, appointed by the Governor;
- two representatives from state agencies that are not represented on the Council, appointed by the Governor;
- two members of the public, appointed by the Governor; and
- the administrator of the Information Services Division of the DOA.

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Future Fisheries Review Panel

Statutory Citation: Section 87-1-273, MCA

The Future Fisheries Review Panel is responsible for assisting the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in reviewing projects submitted by public or private entities for funding and determining which projects are appropriate for inclusion in the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Membership

The Speaker of the House and the Senate Committee on Committees each choose one member to serve on the Panel. Eleven other members, representing the interests listed below, are appointed by the Governor. The Panel is required to meet at least once every 6 months.

The Panel is composed of:

- two legislators,
- a representative of conservation districts,
- a representative with expertise in commercial agriculture,
- a representative with expertise in irrigated agriculture,
- a private fisheries restoration professional,
- two members who are licensed Montana anglers,
- a representative with expertise in silviculture,
- a Montana high school student,
- a representative with expertise in mining reclamation techniques,
- a representative with expertise in fisheries, and
- one ex officio member from the Montana Department of Transportation who has experience in highway impacts mitigation.

The Future Fisheries Improvement Program terminates July 1, 2009.

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Gaming Advisory Council

<http://www.doj.state.mt.us/gaming/advisorycouncil.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-2021, MCA

The Gaming Advisory Council, created in 1989, advises the Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) and other state agencies on public policy matters related to gaming, including changes to gaming statutes, the need for additional or modified department rules, and other gambling-related issues. The Council must submit to the DOJ a biennial report that includes the Council's findings and recommendations.

Membership

The Speaker of the House and the Senate Committee on Committees each select one person from their respective houses to serve on the Council. The remaining members are appointed by the Attorney General, with one representing the public; two representing local governments; one, who is a Native American; and three representing the gaming industry.

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Information Technology Board

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Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-1021, MCA

The Information Technology Board provides a forum to guide state agencies, the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, and local governments in the development and deployment of intergovernmental information technology resources. The Board also advises the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) on statewide information technology standards and policies, the state strategic information technology plan, major information technology budget requests, and rates and other charges for services established by the DOA.

Membership

The board consists of 19 members that include:

- the director of the DOA, who serves as Presiding Officer of the Board;
- the chief information officer provided for in 2-17-511;
- the Director of the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning;
- six members who are directors of state agencies and who are appointed by the Governor;
- two members representing local government, appointed by the Governor;
- one member representing the Public Service Commission (PSC), appointed by the PSC;
- one member representing the private sector, appointed by the Governor;
- one member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- one member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- one member representing the Legislative Branch, appointed by the Legislative Branch Computer System Planning Council;
- one member representing the Judicial Branch, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;
- one member representing the university system, appointed by the Board of Regents; and
- one member representing K-12 education, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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K-12 Public School Renewal Commission

Session Law Citation: Chapter 548, Laws of 2003

The 2003 Legislature established the K-12 Public School Renewal Commission to study and propose changes to improve K-12 public education in Montana. The specific mandate of the Commission is to examine:

- the revenue available for public education;
- the structure of school district governance;
- the methods of funding public education;
- the role of the state government in public education; and
- the role of the federal government in public education.

A final report of the Commissions's findings and recommendations must be submitted to the Education and Local Government interim committee by September 15, 2004. The Commission may recommend legislation to the 59th Legislature based on its findings.

Membership

The Commission must include among its members the Governor, the Presiding Officer of the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the Senate, or a designee for any of these appointments. In addition, the Governor, in consultation with the above members, must appoint a representative from the Juvenile Corrections Division of the Montana Department of Corrections and choose from 10 to 25 entities to designate a representative to serve on the Commission.

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Legislative Oversight Committee on Montana-ARCO Litigation

Session Law Citation: Chapter 354, Laws of 1993

The Legislative Oversight Committee on Montana-ARCO Litigation is made up of two senators and two representatives, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

This Committee meets with the Montana Department of Justice's Natural Resource Damage Program to be briefed on the progress of the litigation and negotiations between the State of Montana and Atlantic-Richfield Corporation regarding natural resource damages in the Clark Fork River Basin. The Committee is also briefed on plans for the appropriate use of the money received by the state as a result of the litigation.

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Montana Consensus Council Board

<http://mcc.state.mt.us/css/default.asp>

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-1027, MCA

Originally established by Executive Order in 1994 and statutorily decreed in 2003, the mission of the Montana Consensus Council (MCC) is "to promote fair, effective, and efficient processes for building agreement on natural resource and other public policy issues"² in Montana.

Membership

The MCC is governed by a Board of Directors constructed to represent a cross-section of Montana citizens. The Board consists of eight members, with four members appointed by the Governor; two members, one of whom is appointed by the President of the Senate and the other by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and two members, one of whom is appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate and the other by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

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Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission

*Session Law Citation: Chapter 469, Laws of 1997
Statutory Citation: Title 22, chapter 3, part 10, MCA*

In addition to providing for numerous long-range building projects, House Bill No. 5 (Chapter 469, Laws of 1997) made possible the state's purchase and administration of Virginia and Nevada Cities and other historically significant state properties. To this end, HB 5 established the Heritage Preservation and Development Commission. The Commission consists of 14 members. The two legislative members are chosen by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. The Governor appoints nine members of the public with backgrounds in tourism, history and historic preservation, community planning, and business. The directors of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Montana Historical Society, and the Montana Department of Commerce also serve on the Commission.

Although the Commission is charged with overseeing the acquisition of culturally and historically significant properties throughout the state, its first order of business is to manage Virginia City and Nevada City.

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Property Tax Exemption Study Commission

Session Law Citation: Chapter 160, Laws of 2003

The 2003 Legislature established the Property Tax Exemption Study Commission to conduct a study of property tax exemptions and to determine whether property tax exemptions contribute to or impede the goal of an equitable property tax system and determine whether existing property tax exemption laws should be modified or repealed in order to achieve the goal of an equitable property tax system.

The committee must submit a written report of its findings to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2004, that must include options, if options are considered necessary, and proposed legislation necessary to implement any proposals.

Membership

The 10 members must include:

- two members from the House of Representatives, one from each party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- two members from the Senate, one from each party, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees; and
- the following members appointed by the Governor:
 - one representative of local government;
 - one representative of K-12 public schools;
 - two representatives of property tax-exempt organizations;
 - one representative of business; and
 - one representative of the Executive Branch.

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Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee

Session Law Citation: Chapter 606, Laws of 2003

The mandate of the interim Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee is to study the effects of cyclical reappraisal and methods for mitigating the changes in taxable value caused by cyclical reappraisal.

The Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee must coordinate its work with the Tax Reform Study Committee. Written reports must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2004, that must include recommendations and proposed legislation, if legislation is considered necessary.

Membership

The committee is composed of four senators, two from each political party, appointed by the Committee on Committees, and four representatives, two appointed by the Speaker of the House and two appointed by the Minority Leader.

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Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-212, MCA

The Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission negotiates, on behalf of the Governor of the State of Montana, federal reserved water rights with the federal government and Montana's Indian tribes as part of the statewide water adjudication process.

The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate each select two members from their respective bodies who join five other members appointed by the Governor and the Attorney General.

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State Fund Study Committee

Session Law Citation: Chapter 598, Laws of 2003

The 2003 Legislature established the State Fund Study Committee to study the role and the sale of the State Compensation Insurance Fund and determine if it is cost-effective and in the best interest of the state, Montana employees, and Montana employers to sell all or a portion of the State Compensation Insurance Fund assets and liabilities and to create an assigned risk pool.

The Committee must submit a report on the results of the study to the 59th Legislature. As a component of the report, the Committee must prepare any necessary legislation to implement a recommended sale. A sale of the assets and liabilities of the Fund may not be made unless the sale is approved by the 59th Legislature.

Membership

The committee consists of:

- two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, one from each party;
- two members of the Senate appointed by the President, one from each party;
- a representative of the State Auditor's Office, appointed by the State Auditor;
- a representative of the Governor's Office, appointed by the Governor;
- an insured employer of the State Fund who is also a member of the State Fund Board, appointed by the Governor;
- a representative of a plan No. 2 insurer, appointed by the Governor; and
- a representative of plan No. 1, appointed by the Governor.

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Tax Reform Study Committee

Session Law Citation: Chapter 606, Laws of 2003

The charge of this committee is to conduct a comprehensive examination of taxation in Montana. Specifically, the committee is required to:

- develop an inventory of taxes imposed at the state and local level,
- provide analyses that evaluate existing taxes,
- examine tax expenditures to assess the ongoing merit of each expenditure, and
- examine alternative methods of taxation from existing sources, as well as new sources of revenue, and evaluate the alternative methods and new sources according to the defined criteria.

The Tax Reform Study Committee must coordinate its work with the Property Tax Reappraisal Study Committee. Written reports must be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2004, that must include recommendations and proposed legislation, if legislation is considered necessary.

Membership

The committee must include:

- four senators, two from each political party, appointed by the Committee on Committees;
- four representatives, two appointed by the Speaker and two appointed by the minority leader; and
- the following members appointed by the Governor:
 - one representative of small business;
 - one representative of large industry;
 - one representative of agriculture; and
 - one representative of labor.

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Workforce Investment Board

<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/gov2/css/boards/workforce/default.asp>

Federal Law Citation: 29 U.S.C. 2821

Statutory Citation: Section 53-2-1203, MCA.

Passage of the Workforce Investment Act by Congress in August 1998 resulted in a transformation of job training and employment services, effectively replacing the Job Training Partnership Act system. The purpose of the Act, as provided in 29 U.S.C. 2811, is to "provide workforce investment activities . . . that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation". The Act further states in 29 U.S.C. 2821 that the "Governor of a State shall establish a State workforce investment board to assist in the development of the State plan" and to carry out other functions.

The Board provides broad guidance and oversight to Montana's two local Workforce Investment Boards. The State Board conducts its work through committees, and has established the following committees for the 2003-2004 interim: Executive Committee, Accountability Committee, Regulatory Committee, and the Economic Development and Business Retention Committee. The Board is staffed from the Commissioner's Office of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

Membership

The Board must include the Governor or the Governor's designee; two members of the House of Representatives, each from a different political party, and two members of the Senate, each from a different political party, appointed by the presiding officer of each respective chamber; and gubernatorial appointees who are business owners, business executives, elected officials of local governments, representatives of labor organizations, individuals with experience in youth activities, experts in the delivery of workforce investment activities, state agency officials responsible for managing one-stop centers, and any other appropriate representatives, as determined by the Governor.

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PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

**PERMANENT STATUTORY INTERIM AND OTHER COMMITTEES WITH
LEGISLATIVE STAFF SUPPORT**

OTHER COMMITTEES STAFFED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES ON WHICH LEGISLATORS SERVE

INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Council of State Governments

<http://www.csgwest.org>

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 3, MCA

Section 5-11-304, MCA, authorizes the Legislative Council to facilitate Montana's participation in "appropriate interstate, international, and intergovernmental entities" and thus its membership in the Council of State Governments, an organization of all the states and territories of the United States.

Montana is one of 13 states belonging to the Council of State Governments-West (CSG-West). CSG-West provides a "nonpartisan platform for regional cooperation and collaboration among the legislatures of the western states".³ The fundamental work of the CSG is accomplished through policy study committees with legislative representatives from each of the member states.

The Montana Legislature did not appropriate funding for Montana's active participation in CSG during the 2003-2004 biennium.

Membership

Committee	Senate Members		House Members	
Energy and Public Lands	Johnson	Stonington	Fisher	Carney
Fiscal Affairs	Story	Ryan	Devlin	Buzzas
Legislative Council on River Governance	Tash	McCarthy	Stoker	Gallus
Trade and Transportation	Kitzenberg	Roush & Tropila	Waitschies	Keane
Western Legislative Futures Forum	Perry	Schmidt	R. Brown	Gillan
Western Water and Environment	Bales	Toole	Lake	Jent

³ <http://www.csgwest.org>

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National Conference of State Legislatures

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 3, MCA

Section 5-11-305, MCA, authorizes Montana's participation in "appropriate interstate organizations", the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) among them. NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves only legislators and their staffs. NCSL provides research, technical assistance, and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues and is an advocate for the interests of the states in the American Federal System.

Much of the NCSL's work is accomplished through 15 standing committees composed of legislators and legislative staff from across the country. The Legislative Council may appoint members to 2-year terms as delegates and alternates to NCSL committees. An appropriation in House Bill No. 2 pays the dues for Montana's membership in NCSL for each biennium. The appropriation does not, however, provide funds for legislator or staff participation in NCSL meetings or seminars.

The NCSL Committees are:

- Agriculture and Rural Development Committee
- Budgets and Revenue Committee
- Communications, Technology and Interstate Commerce Committee
- Economic Development, Trade and Cultural Affairs Committee
- Education Committee
- Energy and Electric Utilities Committee
- Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Financial Services Committee
- Health Committee
- Human Services and Welfare Committee
- Labor and Workforce Development Committee
- Law and Criminal Justice Committee
- Legislative Effectiveness and State Government Committee
- Redistricting and Elections Committee
- Transportation Committee

Membership

Committee	Senate Members		House Members	
Agriculture and Rural Development	Bales	Hansen	Pattison	Smith
Budgets and Revenue	Barkus	Elliot	Balyeat	Buzzas
Communications, Technology, and Interstate Commerce	Glaser	Wheat	Morgan	Lindeen
Economic Development, Trade, and Cultural Affairs	Curtiss	Mangan	Lambert	Gallik
Education	Glaser	Ryan	Andersen	Cyr
Energy and Electric Utilities	Johnson	Toole	A. Olson	Small-Eastman
Environmental and Natural Resources	Tash	Tester	Haines	Dickenson
Financial Services	Barkus	Harrington	Sinrud	Matthews
Health	Esp	Squires	Roberts	Becker
Human Services and Welfare	Keenan	Schmidt	E. Clark	Raser
Labor and Workforce Development	O'Neil	Cocchiarella	Lehman	Bergren
Law and Criminal Justice	Curtiss	Cromley	Noennig	Gutsche
Legislative Effectiveness and State Government	Gebhardt	Stonington	Hedges	Weiss
Redistricting and Elections	Esp	Tropila	Shockley	Jayne
Transportation	Butcher	Roush	B. Olson	Golie

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Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

<http://www.pnwer.org>

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 7, MCA

In 2001, the Montana Legislature pledged its participation in the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER). The purpose of the PNWER is to synchronize the efforts of neighboring states and provinces to promote greater regional collaboration among the eight entities, enhance the overall competitiveness of the region in international and domestic markets, increase the economic well-being of all citizens in the region, and improve the quality of life of the citizens of the Pacific Northwest.

The PNWER may promote its aim by endorsing uniform legislation or policy initiatives enacted by two or more participating states, provinces, or territories. States and provinces eligible to participate in the PNWER include Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, British Columbia, and the Yukon Territory.

The PNWER consists of a Delegate Council, which includes the Governor or a designee and four legislators from each participating state and four representatives from each participating province and territory, and an Executive Committee consisting of one legislator from each participating state, province, or territory who is a member of the Delegate Council and four of the Governors, Premiers, or Commissioners or their designees.

Policy committees may be established to address specific topics. The Legislative Council is authorized under 5-11-301, MCA, to make Montana's policy committee appointments to the PNWER.

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